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Infighting Over Control of Latin Policy

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

CPYRGHT

The battle over control of Latin American policy is flaring anew. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs Richard N. Goodwin has been handed a new Peace Corps manpower project which will divert some of his time from State Department duties. And this has set a-whirl reports of other impending changes in the Administration's Latin American apparatus.

State Department "professionals" have high hopes of reasserting much of their former sway over Latin American policy.

MISTRUST

This hope derives from rising pressure by the so-called "foreign-policy" Democrats in Congress against direct White House control of Latin American affairs. The State's "pros" have long resisted Mr. Kennedy's attempts to dominate Latin American policy, they will win this round if they win it - only as a by-product of Congressional mistrust, of several White House advisers.

These notably include Professors Arthur Schlesinger and Walter Rostow.

Richard Goodwin, lumped by "the Hill" with Dr. Schlesinger, has held the hottest corner in Latin American affairs since he moved from the White House to State only a few months ago. State's pros had already slapped down Mr Kennedy's first choice as a Latin American straw boss, Task Force Chief Adolf A. Berle.

Mr. Goodwin while in State has made policy and also exercised the supposedly crucial power of judging career diplomat's fitness for promotion. But both the White House and Mr. Goodwin have found the tremendous entrenched machinery of State difficult to move and shake.

SUSPICION

The Hill's foreign policy devotees object to Dr. Schlesinger & Co. as being a White House pipeline for the so-called Caribbean group - Latin American anti-communist liberals led by Venezuela's President Romulo Betancourt and Costa Rica's ex-President Jose Figueres.

The Hill's concentration on Mr. Goodwin is ironical for two reasons. First, the White House Assistant Ralph Dungan, Kennedy's lieutenant for foreign aid, another member of the Schlesinger coterie, William T. Dentzer, has been quietly put into Ted Moscoso's Latin American AID shop. Mr. Dentzer carries White House orders to this powerful agency.

Second, the Caribbean leaders whom some Congressional foreign policy specialists consider too far left are convinced that White House policy favors Latin American leadership far more leftist than they.

The Caribbean group are today warring against communism and Costa Rica is even pushing for international action against Castro. Yet they are convinced that U. S. policy favors the "neutralist-line" nations led by Brazil and Mexico.

They trace this to the influence of our United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, whose longtime friend and political associate, George Ball, is today extremely powerful as U. S. Under Secretary of State.

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